

# West Deptford Little League Spring 2026

## Coach Pitch Softball Rules



### LEAGUE RULES:

- No parents/family members are allowed on the field or in the dugout.
- When players are in the dugout, a coach must also be in there to supervise.
- Teams must remove all belongings and trash before leaving the field after a game/practice.
- The home team grooms and lines the field for games and the away team grooms the field post-game.

### GAME STRUCTURE RULES:

- 6 inning games
- An inning ends with 3 outs, or 5 runs are scored, whichever comes first. If the 5th run is scored, the ball is still alive. However, no other runs will count after the 5th run.
- Little League Mercy Rules are in effect: 15 runs after 3 innings and 10 runs after 4 innings.
- If the game is tied after 6 innings, the game will continue until there is a winner.

### BATTING RULES:

- No called strikes
- A batter is out after three missed swings.
- Each batter will receive only 7 total pitches, even if the batter has not swung three times.
- If the 7th pitch is a foul ball, the batter may only receive additional pitches as long as the batter continues to hit foul balls.

### PITCHING RULES:

- A coach may pitch from an area up to 6 ft from in front of the mound (roughly one large step) or from the mound area.
- The Pitching Coach may not interfere with play other than for personal protection. Any ball which is live that makes contact with a coach is dead immediately. The batter will be awarded first base and any base runner will remain where they are unless the result forces them to the next base.
- All pitching will be underhand.
- If a player is hit by the pitch they will remain at the plate, no hit by pitch.

### DEFENSIVE RULES:

- There are 10 defensive positions with 4 players in the outfield. There may not be more than 4 players in the outfield during games.
- 1 Player should be assigned to the pitcher's mound area. All players playing the pitching position must be wearing an infield chest protector. For left-handed batters, the pitcher will stand to the back left of the coach and for right-handed batters to the back right of the coach. The player playing pitcher may not stand in front of the pitching coach.
- Outfielders must stay in the grass until the ball is hit. An outfielder cannot make a play at any base.
  - If an outfielder makes a play on the base, once the play is over, the ball is dead, and the base runner will be awarded that base.
- A fully suited catcher should be used as well as the defensive team providing a coach as the backup.
  - The backup catcher must not interfere with the play. The coach is only there to retrieve balls of which are not in play and return them to the coach pitching.
- To stop play, an infielder in fair territory must have clean possession of the ball and not be in the process of making a play. If a runner is advancing and is more than halfway to their next base, they get the base they are advancing to. If they are not advancing or have not crossed the halfway mark, they must return to the last base. The player with clean possession of the ball or the coaches on the field once they see the infielder has clean possession of the ball, will yell "TIME."

#### BASERUNNING RULES:

- Continuous running may occur if during the process of making a play, the ball is overthrown. The runner may advance until the infielder closest to the ball has returned the ball to the infield in fair territory, cleanly.
- A ball hit to the outfield is unlimited running until the ball is in possession of an infielder.
- There should be lines in the base path halfway between the bases. This will dictate whether the runner is more than halfway in the base path and can be granted the next base once the play has been called dead.
- There are no leads. Runners may not leave the base until the ball has been contacted by the batter.

#### POSITIONAL AND LINEUP RULES:

- No player may sit more than 2 innings at a time. Little League Mandatory play of 3 innings in the field is required.
- Players may only play in a spot for 2 innings unless numbers don't allow it.
- Continuous batting order is in effect.
  - All players must be wearing a helmet once they leave the dugout and until they return
  - Only pinch running for the player who is catching with 2 outs.

UMPIRING RULES:

- The coach who is closest to the base will make any call. Defensive coaches will be in the outfield and make any calls at 2B. There is no arguing a coach's call.

All other rules are by the Little League Rulebook.